AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented): A method, performed by a computer system having a network of terminals, of transferring funds from a first payment cardholder at a first merchant to a second payment cardholder at a second merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication from said first cardholder at said first merchant that a transfer of funds is required to said second cardholder;

generating a first payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said first merchant and said first cardholder, wherein said first payment card transaction is a first immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said first cardholder and crediting said funds to said first merchant;

generating a second payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said second merchant and said second cardholder, wherein said second payment card transaction is a second immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said second merchant and crediting said funds to said second cardholder; and

communicating said first and second payment card transactions to a host across said network.

2. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, comprising the initial step of obtaining authorization~~authorisation~~ for the first payment card transaction prior to generating the first payment card transaction.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, wherein the indication identifies

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the payment card details of the first cardholder or~and/or~ the payment card details of the second cardholder.

4. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~or 2~, wherein the indication contains an identifier for the first cardholder or~and/or a second identifier for~ the second cardholder and whereby the identifier~these identifiers~ may be used to obtain the card details of the first or~and/or~ second payment cardholder from a database of cardholders and their associated identifiers.

5. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~any preceding claim~, wherein the positive or~and/or~ negative amounts associated with the value of funds to be transferred may be equal to the value of funds to be transferred or may include a service fee applied to the value of funds to be transferred.

6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~any preceding claim~, wherein a~the~ currency of the first payment card transaction is the currency of the first cardholder's payment card account and the second payment card transaction is conducted in a~the~ currency of the second cardholder's payment card account in circumstances where the currencies of the first and second cardholders' payment card accounts are different.
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7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~any preceding claim~, wherein the first step of receiving an indication from the cardholder is performed over a computer network.

8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~any one of claims 1 to 6~, wherein the

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step of receiving an indication from the first cardholder is performed over a telephone.

9. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the first merchant and second merchant are the same.

10. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the first merchant and second merchant are related but not the same.

11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the first merchant is resident in a ~~the~~ country of the first cardholder and the second merchant is located in a ~~the~~ country of the second cardholder.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 3 ~~any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of identifying a suitable second merchant from the details of the second cardholder.

13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 3 ~~any preceding claim~~, further comprising the step of identifying a suitable first merchant from the card details of the first cardholder.

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, comprising the step of generating a third payment card transaction between a first merchant and a third cardholder wherein the third cardholder and second merchant are associated accounts of the same entity, suitably co-resident in a particular country.

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15. (previously presented): A system for transferring funds from a first payment cardholder at a first merchant to a second payment cardholder at a second merchant, comprising:

a network of terminals;

means for receiving an indication from said first cardholder at said first merchant that a transfer of funds is required to said second cardholder,

means generating a first payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said first merchant and said first cardholder, wherein said first payment card transaction is a first immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said first cardholder and crediting said funds to said first merchant;

means for generating a second payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said second merchant and said second cardholder, wherein said second payment card transaction is a second immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said second merchant and crediting said funds to said second cardholder; and

means for communicating said first and second payment card transactions to a host across said network.

16. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15, comprising means for obtaining authorization~~authorisation~~ for the payment card transaction between the first merchant and the first cardholder prior to generating the first payment card transaction.

17. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15 ~~or~~ further comprising a database of cardholder information, where individual records in the database contain~~containing~~ details of cardholders and an associated identifier.

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18. (original): A system according to claim 17, wherein the system is adapted to extract cardholders' details from the database from identifiers provided to generate the first or~~and/or~~ second transaction.

19. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15~~any one of claims 15 to 18~~, wherein the system is adapted to perform dynamic currency conversion on the first or ~~and/or~~ second transactions.

20. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15~~any one of claims 15 to 19~~, wherein the system is adapted to receive indications from the cardholder over a computer network.

21. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15~~any one of claims 15 to 19~~, wherein the system is adapted to receive an indication from the first cardholder over a telephone.

22. (currently amended): A system according to claim 15~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~, wherein the system comprises a database associating card numbers or ranges of card numbers to at least one merchant.

23. (original): A system according to claim 22, wherein the system is adapted to determine an appropriate merchant for use in the first transaction by comparison of the card details of the first cardholder with entries in the database.

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24. (original) A system according to claim 22, wherein the system is adapted to determine an appropriate merchant for use in the second transaction by comparison of the card details of the second cardholder with entries in the database.

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended): A computer readable medium having stored therein~~program product comprising a computer usable medium carrying~~ instructions for causing a computer system to perform the method according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~.

27. (previously presented) A method, performed by a computer system, of transferring funds from a first payment cardholder at a first merchant to a second payment cardholder at a second merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication from said first cardholder at said first merchant that a transfer of funds is required to said second cardholder,

generating a first payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said first merchant and said first cardholder, wherein said first payment card transaction is a first immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said first cardholder and crediting said funds to said first merchant; and

generating a second payment transaction between said second merchant and said second cardholder, wherein said second payment card transaction is a cheque, debiting said funds from said second merchant and crediting said funds to said second cardholder.

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28. (previously presented)   A system for transferring funds from a first payment cardholder at a first merchant to a second payment cardholder at a second merchant, comprising:

means for receiving an indication from said first cardholder at said first merchant that a transfer of funds is required to said second cardholder,

means generating a first payment card transaction at a networked terminal between said first merchant and said first cardholder, wherein said first payment card transaction is a first immediate transfer, debiting said funds from said first cardholder and crediting said funds to said first merchant; and

means for generating a second payment transaction between said second merchant and said second cardholder, wherein said second payment transaction is a cheque, debiting said funds from said second merchant and crediting said funds to said second cardholder.

29. (currently amended): A method of transferring funds from a first payment cardholder at a first merchant to a second payment cardholder at a second merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication from said first cardholder at said first merchant that a transfer of funds is required to said second cardholder;

generating a first, immediate payment card transaction between said first merchant and said first cardholder, debiting said funds from said first cardholder and crediting said funds to said first merchant; and

generating a second, immediate payment card transaction between said second merchant and said second cardholder, debiting said funds from said second merchant and crediting said funds to said second cardholder.

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